

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY USSR (Estonian SSR)

REPORT

SUBJECT Oil Shale Production in Estonia

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50X1-HUM

Page Denied

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

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1. Kivioli and Khotla Jarve installations are being greatly extended. Kivioli is being increased from 11 to 18 generators. Khotla-Jarve is being increased from 12 to 18 generators. Generators are for open-cast distillation. The thirteen new generators will come from VEB Gaselan, East Berlin 17, delivery this year. Another tunnel oven has been ordered for subterranean distillation, origin unknown but not from the East Zone. 50X1-HUM

2. Estonian oil shale, heating value 25% that of anthracite, is divided into three types. As it comes from the mine it is type 2 and is divided by sieves into "lump" shale (type 1) and shale dust (type 3). Type 1 is distilled, type 2 is fuel for locomotives etc, and type 3 is being experimentally combined with peat in briquettes. If experiment is successful, production will be started.

Upon conclusion of all extensions (stated to be end of 1952 in previous report now postponed to end of 1953, the daily production at Kivioli will be 600 tons of volatile fuels, 220 subterranean distillation, and 380 tons generator distillation. The projected second tunnel oven is not considered in this estimate. Bitumen by-product will be 80 subterranean and 95 generator = ca. 175 tons. Plans call for 217,000 tons of volatiles and 63,000 tons bitumen at Kivioli for the year, not counting the second tunnel oven. 50X1-HUM

For Khotla Jarve, after extension, 1954 production is estimated at 110,000 tons of volatiles (generator) and 31,000 tons bitumen.

Sillana, Tida, and Slantay, are now of secondary importance and serve almost exclusively for the treatment of shale.

Sketch of area attached.

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In the middle of May, subterranean distillation was stopped by order of the Soviet [regime], as the acts of sabotage, increasing over the last year, have not been stopped in spite of close supervision by the Red Army. This supervision was not possible [i.e. could not be satisfactory] because of the inability to supervise the working areas.

Although 70% of the Estonian population has been evacuated and partly killed, it is still unavoidable that many Estonians are still employed in the shale fields, as they are specialists with decades of experience. As the Soviets still have the partisan movement to deal with, they prefer to cease subterranean distillation and temporarily accept the drop in production.

Therefore, open-cast distillation as reported above will be increased by seven more generators from VEB Gaselan, which makes 20 generators to be delivered in this year.

The production figures given previously will change in relation to the new generators.

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